

II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, in line 2, insert the heading, BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

On page 1, in line 18, insert the heading, SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

On page 3, in line 1, insert the heading, DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING.

On page 3, in line 8, insert the heading, DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 10 with the following:

Figure 2 shows the unit 2 for feeding containers to be sealed according to figure 1 but with an additional sensor 10 which is located upstream of sensor 5. This sensor 10 measures the distance 12 between two containers 1 and 1' on the feeder conveyor 4. If this distance 12 is smaller than the minimum gap needed for the handover of tray 1 before 1' is coming to the handover position as well, the control unit slows down motor 13 of the feeder conveyor 4 to give ~~he~~the accumulation conveyor 3 enough time to increase the distance between tray 1 and 1', before tray 1' is in the handover position to the accumulation conveyor. This increases the distance between containers 1 and 1', so that the control unit is able to maintain the desired gaps 11. Alternatively or in combination with the above mentioned control scheme a mechanical mean can temporarily slow down the tray 1' in order to increase the gap between 1 and 1'.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, at line 25, through page 4, line 10 with the following:

The accumulation conveyor stands still until sensor 5 detects a new tray. Based on the desired gap 11, motor means 8 accelerate the accumulation conveyor 3 faster or slower until the accumulation conveyor 3 has reached a velocity related to the feeder conveyor 4, preferably equal to the speed of the feeder conveyor. This process is controlled by a control unit (not shown). This velocity of the accumulation conveyor 3 is then preferably maintained until the container has at least partially been handed over from the feeder conveyor 4 to the accumulation conveyor 3. After this handing over, the accumulation belt 2 is decelerated again until it comes to a stop. The rate of deceleration is also based on the size of the desired gap 11. The person skilled in the art understands that the accumulation belt needs not come to complete stop after each positioning of a container. Only if one set of containers 1 on the accumulation conveyor 3 is completed, the accumulation conveyor 3 comes to a complete stop and two pusher arms ~~(not depicted)~~ 16 grab the containers and feed them to the sealing unit (not depicted).

Please replace figure 4 with the attached new figure 4.

Please delete the Summary on page 8 and insert the following: